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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE A BALANCED BUDGET

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. HURT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, the American people know that a budget is one of the most important documents produced by any legislative body. It is a document that reflects the values and priorities of our government and our Nation; and while it is a document that is a reflection of today, more importantly, it is a document that lays out a vision for our Nation's future—the future for our children and the future that they will inherit.

So now, for the first time in 4 years, the American people are able to compare, side by side, the three competing visions for our future as proposed by the House, as proposed by the Senate, and as proposed by the President. Two of these proposals would give to our children more taxes, more spending—and neither ever reaches balance. There is only one proposal, the House budget, that would instead give to our children a balanced budget and a brighter future of freedom and opportunity.

Now is the time to choose the budget that reflects our American values. The American people and future generations of Americans deserve a balanced budget.

JOHN BERRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Preliminary, however, to my remarks, I want to say I thank the previous speaker for his remarks, and I would hope that with the Senate's having passed a budget, our having passed a budget, and the President submitting a budget that we will now, hopefully as soon as this week, go to conference so that we might discuss the differences and get that budget to which the gentleman addressed himself.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful individual who has served our country in government service for many years and has spent the last four in overseeing our Federal workforce as the Director of the Office of Personnel Management. I am speaking of my dear friend John Berry, who retired last week as Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

America, Mr. Speaker, is blessed with a Federal workforce composed of hard-working, talented, and dedicated men and women. Too often, however, their contributions are overlooked or are even denigrated by those who would use our Federal employees as an easy target to attack the institution of government.

John Berry made it one of his central missions at OPM to stand up for Federal workers' achievements and remind the American people of the true value we get from recruiting and retaining the best public workforce in the world. He came to OPM with plenty of experience in fighting for Federal employees

and their families. When he served for 10 years as my legislative director, John was instrumental in crafting the Federal Employee Pay Comparability Act and in making sure Congress passed it into law. Mr. Speaker, that was a bipartisan law, and it was President George Bush I who signed that piece of legislation into law in 1990.

In that undertaking and in many others, John Berry made a real difference for the more than 62,000 Federal workers and everyone else who calls my district home. Just as we look to our Federal workers to watch out for us, our Federal employees have looked to John to watch out for them—to make sure that they have a safe work environment, that their paychecks will arrive on time, and that the benefits they earn are the ones they receive.

Under President Clinton, John served as deputy Assistant Secretary and acting Assistant Secretary for Law Enforcement at the Treasury Department, overseeing the United States Secret Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. He later moved to the Interior Department where he was Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, essentially the manager of the Department of the Interior.

Before coming to the Office of Personnel Management, John spent nearly a decade working on conservation as Director of the Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Then, arguably, the job he perhaps enjoyed most was that of Director of the National Zoo. At the National Zoo, he was so successful at turning around a faltering institution that after he left they named a lion in his honor.

John, indeed, was a lion—a lion on behalf of the Federal employees, a lion on behalf of good government, a lion on behalf of integrity. Those who know John can attest that he is not only a true leader and an effective manager but also an incredibly warm person with an unfailingly positive outlook.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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